

House Committee on Border and Intergovernmental Affairs

June 27, 2012

Thomas M. Suehs

Executive Commissioner, HHSC

Olga Rodriguez

Director, Office of Priority Initiatives Coordination, DSHS

-
- Major HHSC Programs
 - Medicaid and CHIP Border Rates and Expenditures Advisory Committee
 - Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities
 - Office of Border Affairs
 - Office of Border Health

Major HHSC Programs

- Medicaid: a jointly funded state-federal program that provides medical coverage to eligible needy persons
 - 3,353,653 currently enrolled
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP): joint state-federal program that provides medical coverage to eligible children up to age 19, who are not already insured
 - 580,331 currently enrolled
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
 - 3,564,534 recipients in May 2012
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
 - 94,845 recipients in May 2012

Medicaid and CHIP Border Rates and Expenditures Advisory Committee

- Senate Bill 1220 (82nd Legislature) established the committee to advise HHSC regarding eliminating rate disparities between the Texas-Mexico border region and other areas of the state in:
 - Medicaid and CHIP capitation rates for services provided to individuals under age 19
 - Medicaid and CHIP fee-for-service per capita expenditures for inpatient and outpatient hospital services provided to individuals under age 19
 - Total professional services expenditures per Medicaid and CHIP enrollee under age 19
- Committee members have been appointed and two meetings occurred this year

Medicaid and CHIP Border Rates and Expenditures Advisory Committee

- Committee members represent the spectrum of geographic areas included in the Texas-Mexico border region
- Committee includes persons who are knowledgeable regarding Medicaid, including managed care, and CHIP

Medicaid and CHIP Border Rates and Expenditures Advisory Committee

- The committee will periodically analyze and compare rates and expenditures along the Texas-Mexico border region and in other areas of the state
 - Produce a report of findings, including recommendations to address problems created by rate disparities, and recommendations for allocation of funds
- HHSC will measure changes occurring from September 1, 2002, to August 31, 2014, in the number of health care providers participating in Medicaid or CHIP along the Texas-Mexico border region and resulting effects on consumer access to health care and consumer utilization
 - Submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2014

Center for Elimination of Disproportionality and Disparities

- Senate Bill 501 (82nd Legislature) established the Center (CEDD) to address disproportionality and disparities across all Texas health and human services agencies and program
 - CEDD works with state and federal agencies, universities, private groups, communities, foundations, and offices of minority health to eliminate health and health access disparities among racial, multicultural, disadvantaged, ethnic, and regional populations, such as residents in border and colonias communities, by providing technical assistance and training
 - Efforts to improve the delivery of health and human services through systems change support HHSC goals to build a healthier population with better outcomes and services' coordination

CEDD Activities

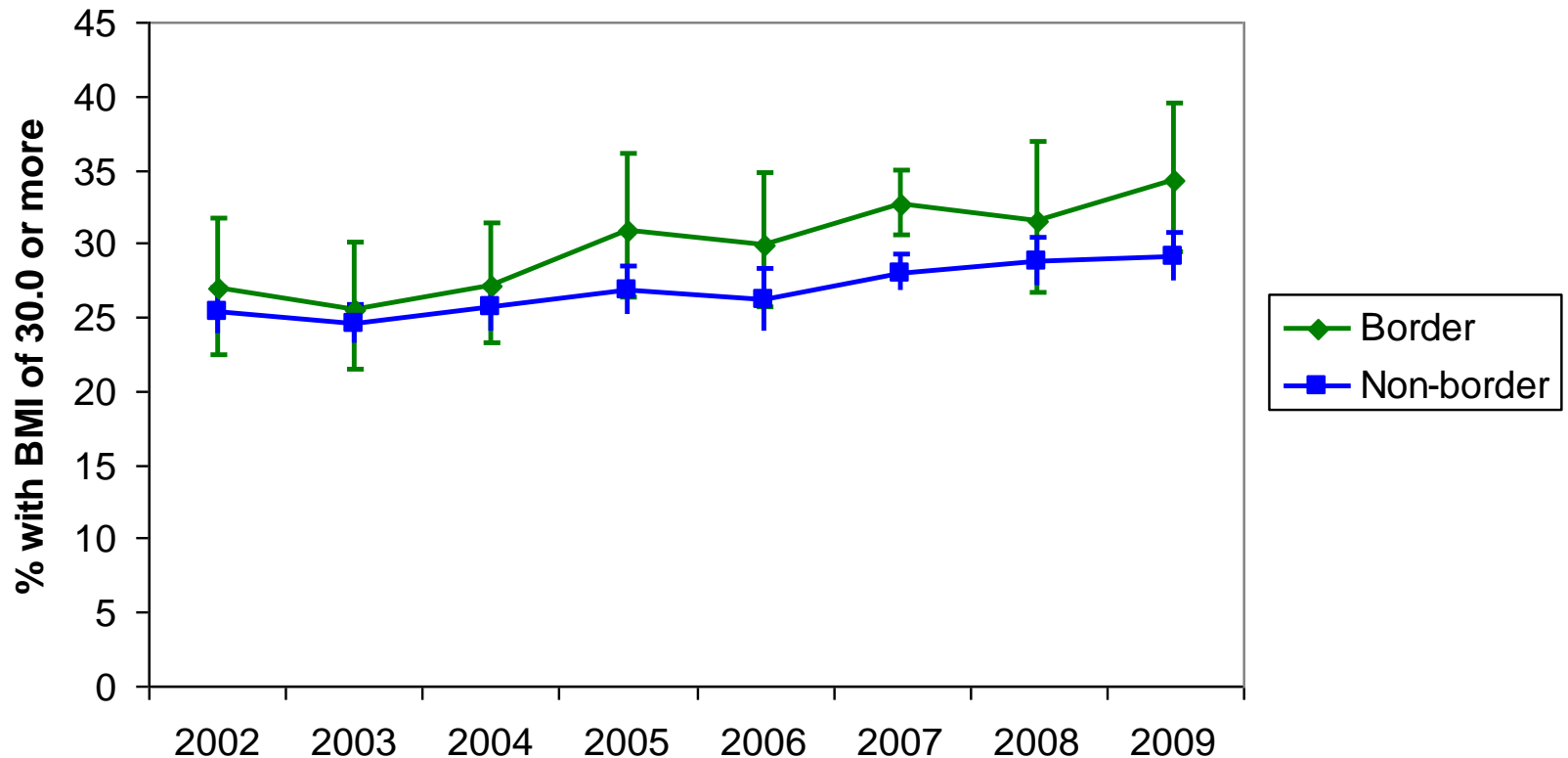
- Regional health equity projects to improve health outcomes:
 - Developed appropriate health literacy materials and trainings to educate and train colonias residents on building water and wastewater systems to reduce the prevalence of disease and illness in Hudspeth County
 - Implemented a culturally appropriate, evidence-based health education program in five Border-area childcare settings to help reduce the prevalence of childhood obesity
- Convene meetings to raise awareness, provide training and conduct cross-systems planning

Office of Border Affairs

- The HHSC Office of Border Affairs (OBA) works to improve conditions for residents along the Texas-Mexico border and colonias communities. The office coordinates information and resources and works with stakeholders to increase knowledge of and access to services
- Activities include:
 - Coordinating services delivery with community-based organizations and state, federal and Mexican agencies
 - Coordinating training for state agency staff to increase cultural competency and good customer service
 - Developing new methods to improve outreach to colonias residents
 - Leading the development of a consolidated colonias appropriations request
 - Implementing ways to stabilize the Promotora workforce
- OBA provides technical assistance and resources to HHS agencies, workforce and education partners, and community stakeholders, and has staff in El Paso, Del Rio, Laredo, McAllen, and Harlingen

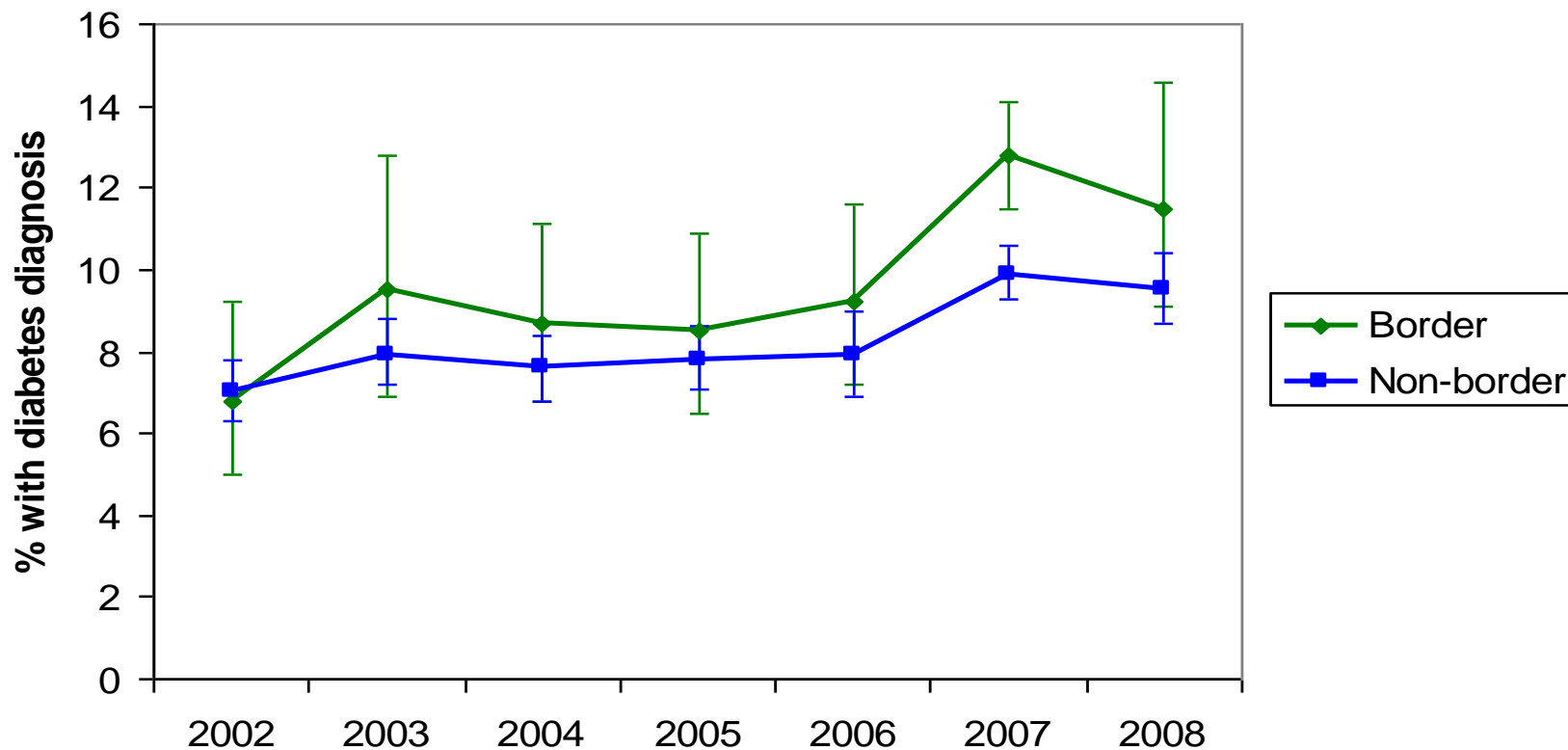
Prevalence of Obesity Along the Border

Adults 18 and older with BMI of 30.0 or more

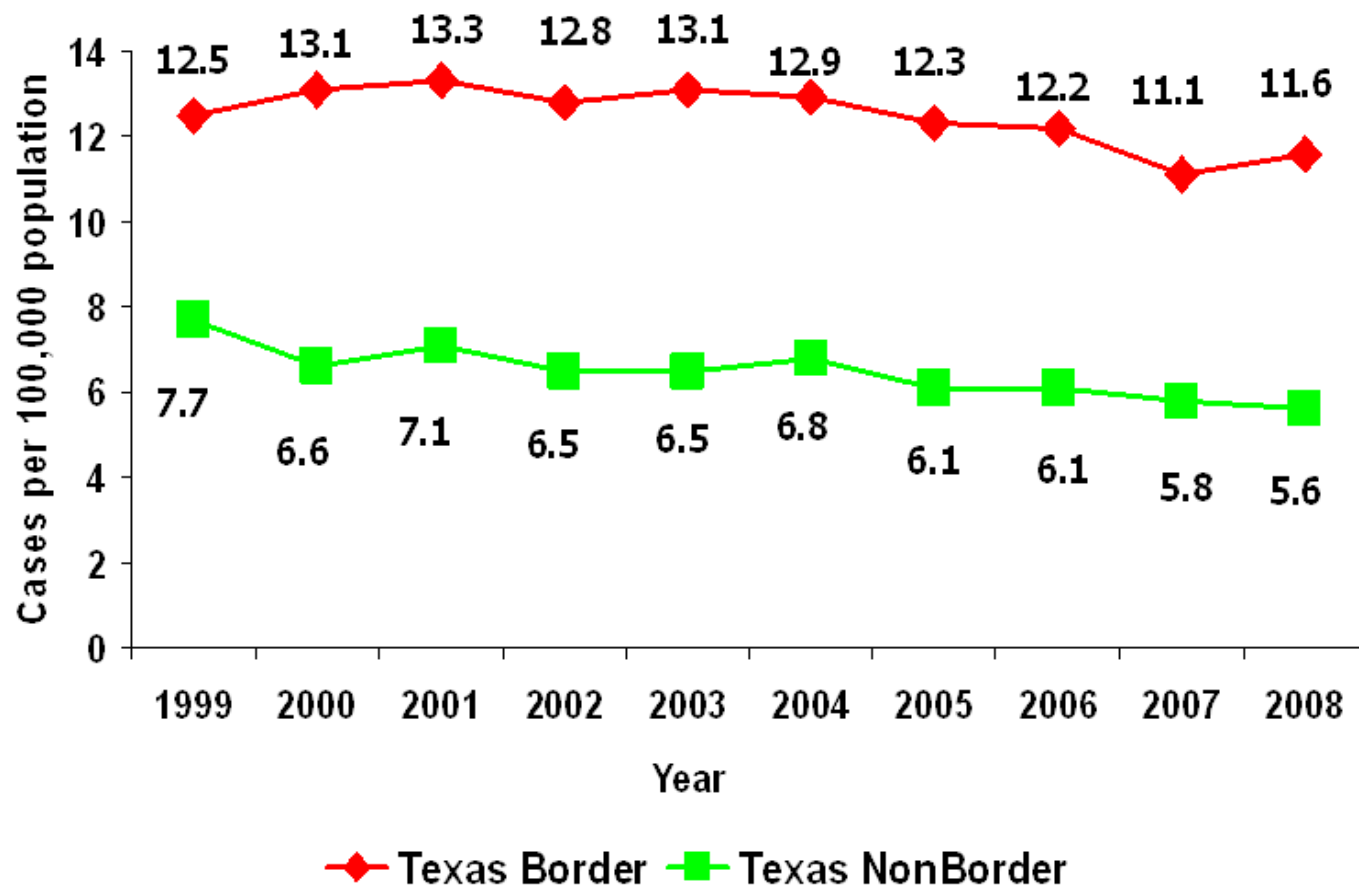


Prevalence of Diabetes Along the Border

**Adults 18 and older who report diabetes diagnosis
Texas BRFSS**



Incidence of Tuberculosis Along the Border (1999 – 2008)



Office of Border Health

- The Texas Department of State Health Services, Office of Border Health (OBH) was created in 1993 to enhance agency efforts to promote and protect the health of border residents by reducing community and environmental health hazards along the Texas-Mexico border, in collaboration with communities and U.S. and Mexican local, state, and federal entities
- OBH has field staff in four border communities (El Paso, Harlingen, Laredo, and San Antonio) to facilitate a coordinated response to address public health concerns along the border. Staff includes experts in the field of sanitation, environmental health, toxicology, epidemiology, food safety, and policy analysis and development

Promotora/Community Health Worker Certification

- The Promotora or Community Health Worker certification program is required for individuals who provide community health work services for compensation
 - Requires 160 hours of course work approved by DSHS; or
 - At least 1,000 hours of community health work services completed in the last six years; and
 - Twenty hours of continuing education every two years

Promotora/Community Health Worker Certification

- More than 1,500 certified community health workers located in 101 counties
 - Every region in the state
 - More than 350 workers in Harris County
 - Other counties with significant numbers of community health workers include: Bexar, Cameron, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Bend, Hidalgo, Lubbock, Maverick, Nueces, Tarrant, Travis, and Webb
- Services focus on women, children, and families

Promotora/Community Health Worker Advisory Committee

- House Bill 2610 (82nd Legislature) established a committee charged with advising DSHS and HHSC on training and certifying promotoras/ community health workers
- The committee is required to study and report on:
 - Feasibility of employing promotoras/community health workers for public and private health services
 - Funding and reimbursement
 - Maximizing access

Promotora/Community Health Worker Advisory Committee

- The committee will:
 - Conduct a literature assessment
 - Complete in-depth interviews
 - Hold focus groups with existing and potential employers in six cities
 - Host an online survey of existing and potential employers in six cities
 - Develop recommendations and models
- A report is due to the Legislature by December 1, 2012